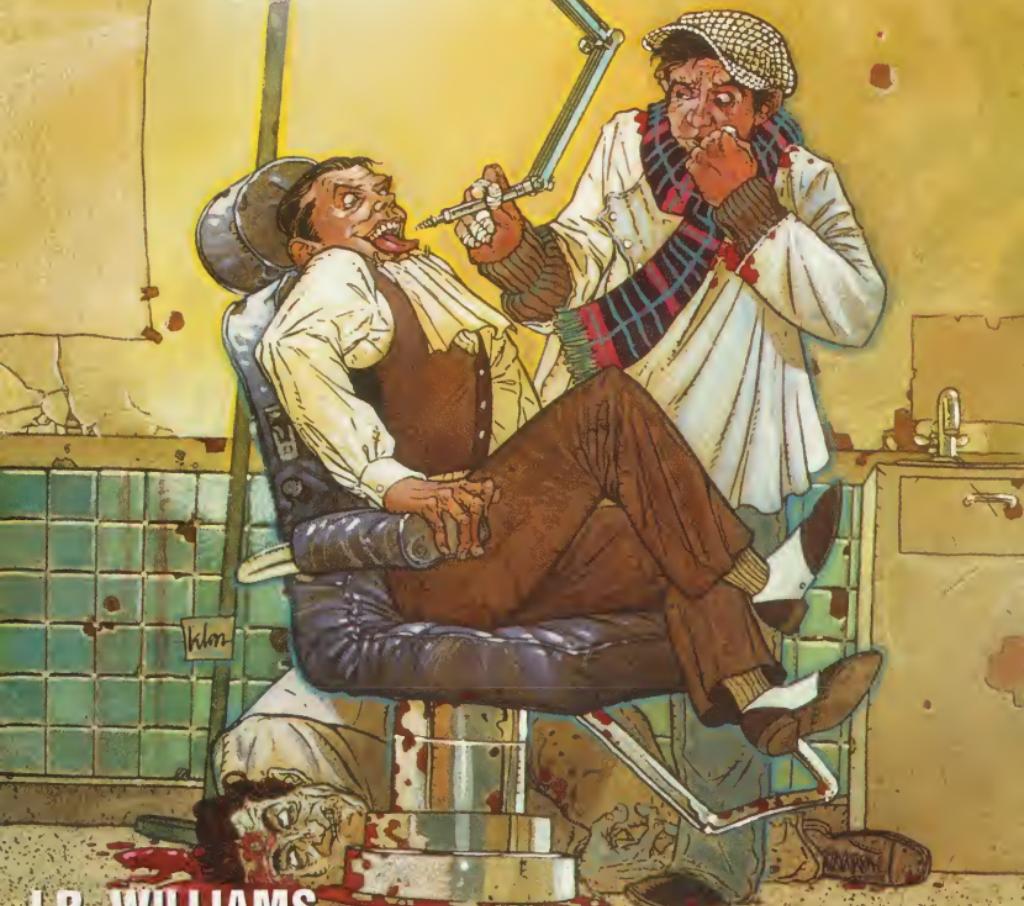




WELCOME TO THE
LITTLE SHOP OF
HORRORS
#2 (Of 3)
\$2.50 US/\$3.50 CAN

WELCOME TO
the LITTLE SHOP OF

HORRORS



J.R. WILLIAMS
GENE FAMA
DEAN ROHRER

ROGER CORMAN PRESENTS

WELCOME TO

the LITTLE SHOP OF

HORRORS™



adapted by J.R. WILLIAMS * pencils by GENE FAMA * inks by DEAN ROHRER * cover by KILIAN PLUNKETT * lettering by NICK CRAIN * colors by CARY PORTER * edited by ROBERT BOYD * design by BARRY E. EAMES * director of publishing MARCUS BASTIDA

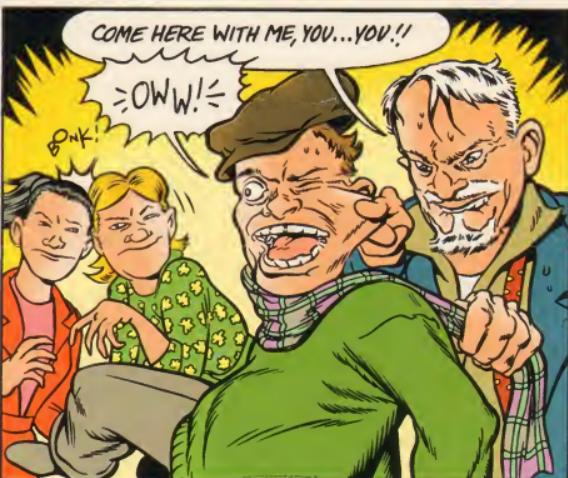
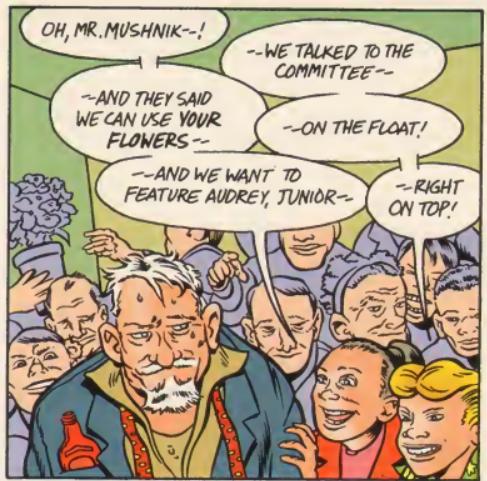
Welcome to the Little Shop of Horrors is adapted from the film The Little Shop of Horrors written by Charles B. Griffith and directed by Roger Corman.

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ISN'T
IT EXCITING
MR. MUSHNIK?



I AM WANTING TO KNOW
RIGHT NOW WHAT KIND OF
PLANT IS THAT?!?

I'M NOT SURE--
I THINK IT'S SOME
TYPE OF VENUS
FLYTRAP, OR
SOMETHING--

--AND WHAT ARE THE
HABITS OF THIS "VENUS
FLYTRAP"!-?

WELL--A BOOK I
READ SAID THAT
THEY EAT INSECTS
--THEY EAT THREE
TIMES...

...THEN THEY'RE
SUPPOSED TO BE
FULL GROWN...



--"THREE TIMES"?!?
AND HOW MANY TIMES DID
THIS ONE EAT-?!?

WELL--
ONCE OR TWICE,
I GUESS...

--BUT THIS ONE MIGHT NEVER
EAT AGAIN!--I DON'T SEE HOW
IT CAN GET ANY BIGGER! IT'S KIND
OF AN UNUSUAL PLANT...

THAT IS A
POSSIBILITY-!!

--SO-- IF THIS IS AS BIG
AS IT IS GETTING, YOU THINK
MAYBE IT DON'T NEED NO
MORE "BUGS" TO
EAT-?

PROBABLY
NOT--



GEE, MR. MUSHNIK, I THOUGHT
YOU'D BE HAPPY--WE'VE ALREADY DONE
SEVENTY DOLLARS WORTH OF
BUSINESS THIS MORNING--

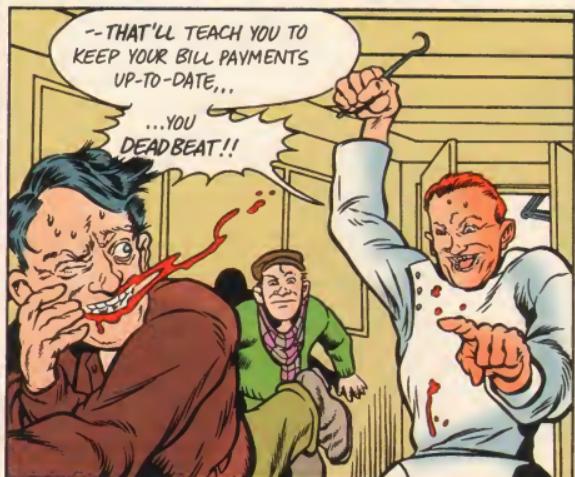
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--WELL, ANYWAY,
I--OUCH! OH, THIS
TOOTH IS KILLING
ME-!!

EXCELLENT.
ALL RIGHT, SEYMOUR, YOU
GO TO THE DENTIST. I AM TAKING
CARE OF THINGS HERE.

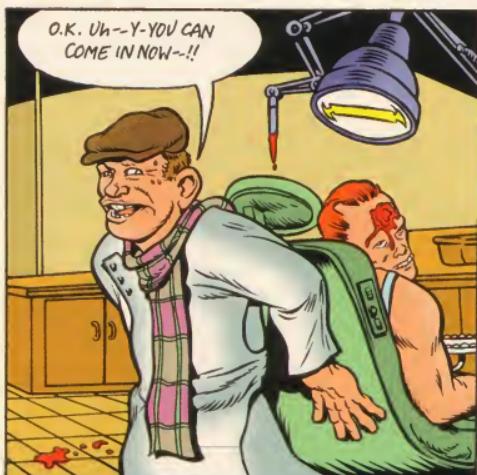
THANKS,
BOSS!











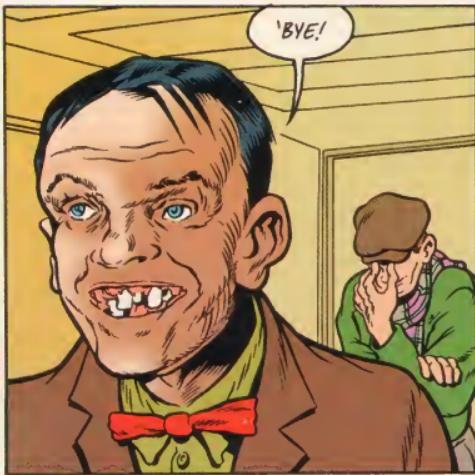


MANY AGONIZING MINUTES LATER...

WELL, DR. FARB - IT'S BEEN QUITE AN AFTERNOON! I CAN'T REMEMBER WHEN I'VE ENJOYED MYSELF SO MUCH--
I'LL RECOMMEND YOU TO ALL MY FRIENDS!

OKAY-
G'BYE!

'BYE!



THAT NIGHT...

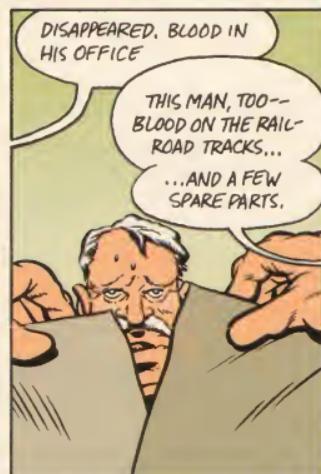


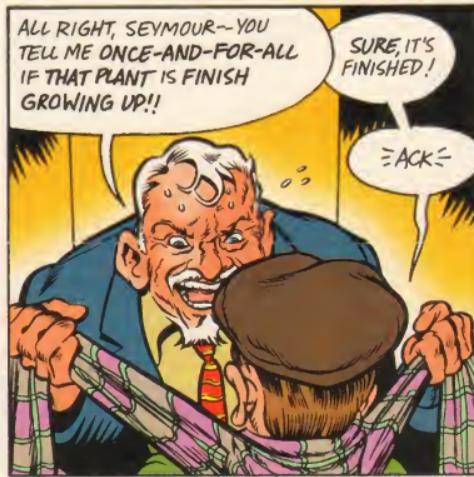
SOON...

SO LONG, DR. FARB...
YOU WERE A LOUSY DENTIST, BUT
YOU WEREN'T SUCH A BAD GUY...
YOU SURE DESERVED BETTER THAN THIS...

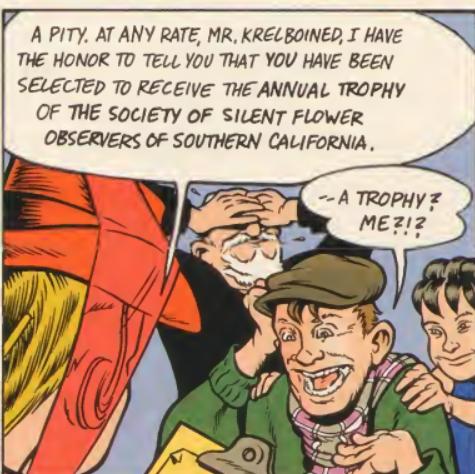
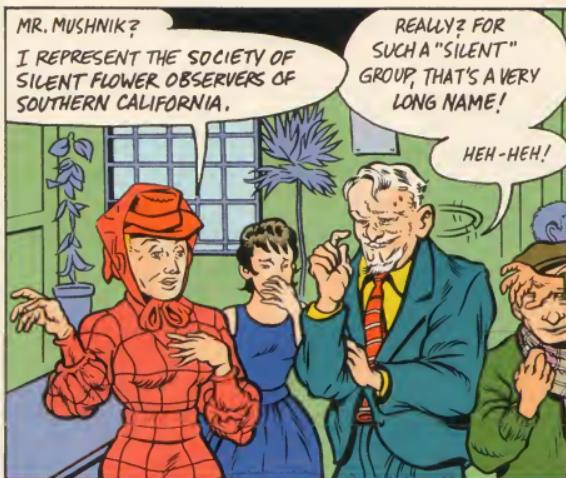








* SEE LAST ISH.--RIBAUD ROBERT

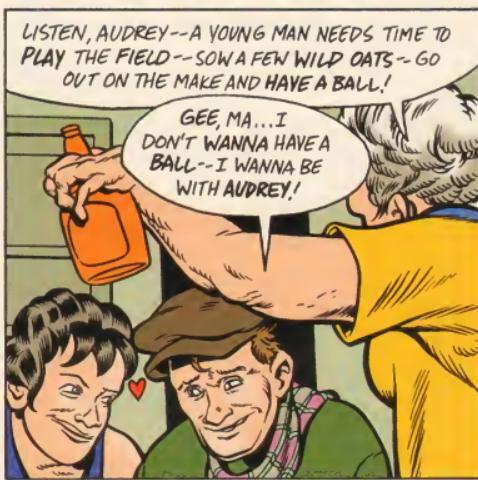
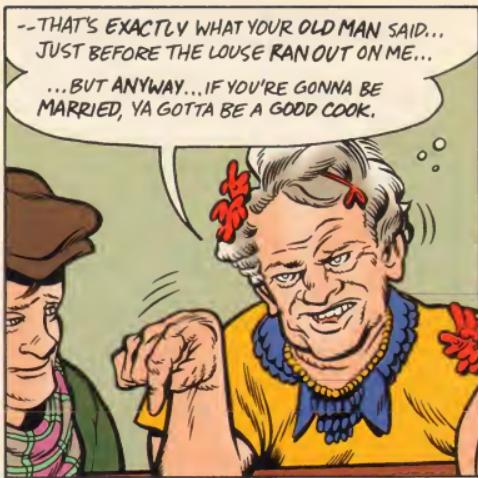


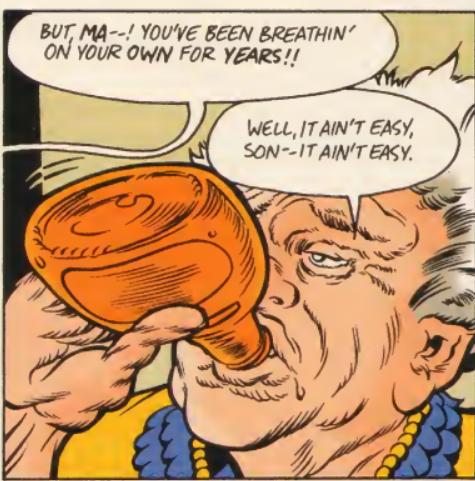


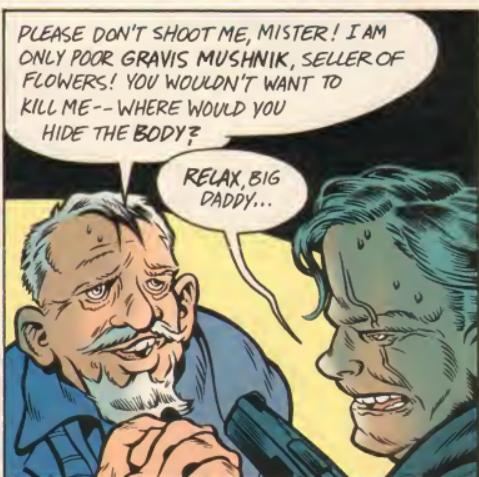












...I'M NOT GONNA SHOOT YOU--NOT UNLESS YOU TRY SOMETHING!

TRY SOMETHING?!?
I NEVER TRIED ANYTHING
IN MY LIFE!!

--YOU WANT MONEY? GO AHEAD,
TAKE IT! THERE'S THE CASH REGISTER...
HELP YOURSELF! TAKE EVERYTHING!

I DIG YOUR BRAND
OF HOSPITALITY, MAN!



SAY, POPS--THERE'S ONLY ABOUT THIRTY BUCKS HERE... WHERE'S, LIKE, THE REST OF THE DOUGH?

PLEASE, MISTER... IAIN'T GOT NO MORE MONEY! I AM ONLYA POOR FLORIST...

YEAH, YEAH,
YEAH-



LISTEN, JACK--I'VE BEEN WATCHING THIS PLACE FOR SEVERAL DAYS...

PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SWARMING AROUND HERE LIKE BEES...



B-BUT, IT'S THE PLANT--THE AUDREY JUNIOR! IT'S A BIG ATTRACTION!

PEOPLE COME IN TO LOOK, THEY DON'T SPEND MONEY--!!

OKAY, DADDY-O, WE'LL DO IT THE HARD WAY...







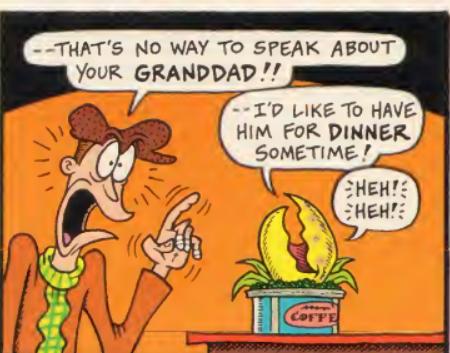
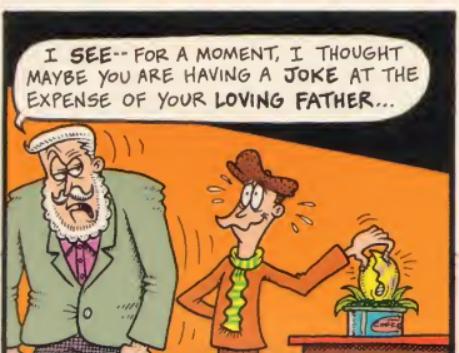
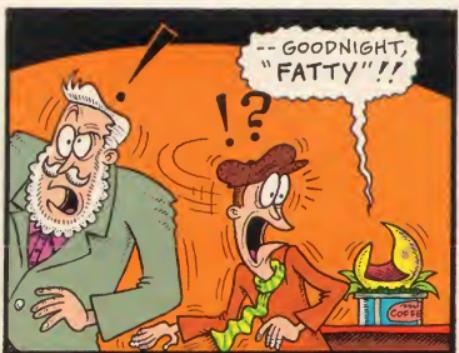
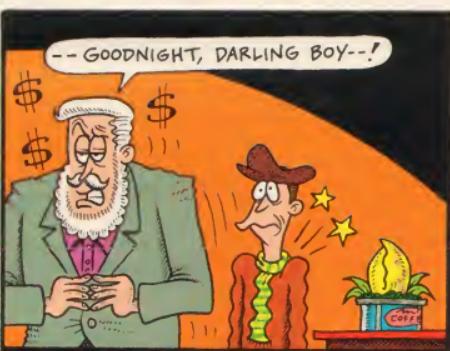
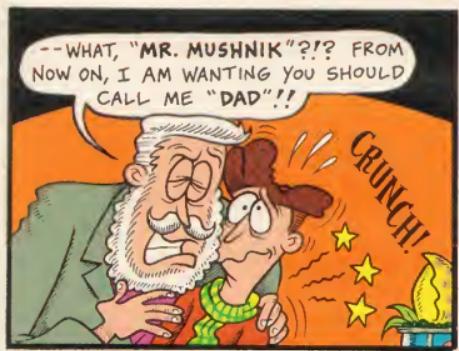
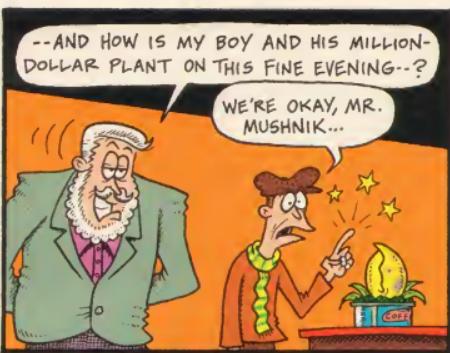
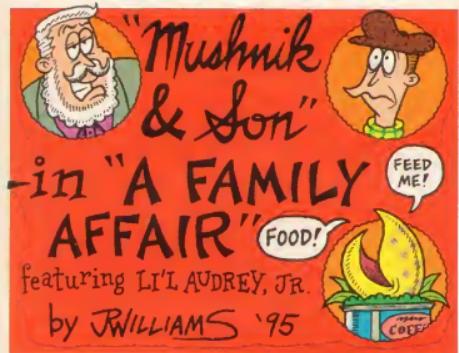
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BEHIND THE SCENES AT

WELCOME TO
the LITTLE SHOP OF

HORRORS



Jonathan Haze as Seymour Krelboined

Jonathan Haze played Seymour Krelboined in the original movie version of *The Little Shop of Horrors*, produced and directed by Roger Corman. He has appeared in many other films including, *East of Eden*, *The Day the World Ended*, *It Conquered the World* and *Carnival Rock*. He has recently emerged from his retirement from acting and has a role in an independently produced film, *The Deep End* (scheduled for release this winter). Cosmic Comics Director of Publishing Marcus Bastida spoke to Haze about his two-day date with film history!

Marcus Bastida: Do you still get fan mail for your role in the original *The Little Shop of Horrors*?

Jonathan Haze: Yeah, its phenomenal. I must get hundreds of letters a year. I worked for two days of prin-

cipal photography and three nights of second unit shots thirty-five years ago, and I still get stopped on the street.

MB: Did you or anyone involved in the film have any idea of how popular it would eventually become?

JH: No. To us it was just a fun movie to work on and when it was released it didn't get any publicity. It was just one of many movies that were released that year; to someone not involved in it, it wasn't too special. Everyone who saw it liked it, but no one had any idea that its popularity would last as long as it did. In fact, it didn't really take off until Mel Welles showed it at the Cannes Film Festival several years after it was released. That's when people really started to talk about it.

Now everyone at least recognizes the title. Some people just know it by reputation, some people have seen it, and some people have memorized all the dialogue. Some of my

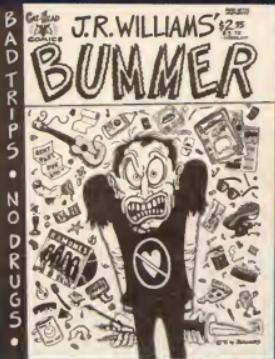
biggest fans weren't even born when it was made.

MB: You said you had fun making it — even though it had a low budget?

JH: I was doing what I wanted to do — act. People nowadays are spoiled. They come on a set and expect it to be fully catered. When we worked on *Little Shop*, we got coffee and donuts and that's it. I didn't care. Principal photography was only two days, but those were the hardest two days of my life. We all worked incredibly long hours. I came home so tired I didn't even get undressed when I went to bed.

It was kind of a sleazy production — but the sleaziness worked for it. The Broadway musical and the musical film were too slick in my opinion. The film remake didn't even have the *Mushnik* character.

MB: How did you like working with Roger?



J.R. Williams by J.R. Williams

JH: Despite his reputation of being cheap, Roger was good to work for. He didn't pay very much, but he was very pleasant, and he gave me a lot of creative room to interpret my role. I had a tough job: my role required me to be kind of cute and shy, but kill people, feed them to a monster plant, and still be a sympathetic character. I had a week to prepare. It was hard.

But like I said, I enjoyed doing it.

MB: Did you work with some of the other low budget producers at the time? Like Ed Wood, Herschel Gordon Lewis, etc.?

JH: No, I became disillusioned with the industry. I fell out of favor with Roger and he gave Dick Miller all the parts that I could have played. After *Little Shop* I basically stopped working for several years. I sailed a lot. Then I realized I had to start making a living somehow and I started working behind the camera as an assistant director and producer. I did that for a few films and then went into television commer-

cials. Since then I've produced or been the production manager for thousands of commercials. I went into business with Haskell Wexler [the noted filmmaker/cinematographer] and formed a television production company. It's given me financial security, but now I'm bored. I want to get into acting again. I've got a couple of parts lined up with some smaller pictures.

I started out with small pictures and now I'm back again.

MB: So how did you get your start?

JH: I worked nights at a gas station — the first self service station in L.A. A little guy would come around now and then to buy gas. We would talk about things and he said he was working on a picture. I didn't give it much thought because those days that's what everyone said. But one day he came by and said he wanted to introduce me to the producer. The guy was Barney Oldung and the producer turned out to be Roger Corman. The picture was his first — *Monster From the Ocean Floor*, with Barney directing.

JH: Yeah, I toured around with his band for a couple of years before I moved out to California to become an actor. That was about 1950 or so. I did a lot for him. I was his stage manager, I wore his clothes and I carried his gun. It was a great time. Then I toured with Josephine Baker and worked as her stage manager. Touring around with Buddy and Josephine were great experiences.

Even so, my role in *Little Shop*, more so than anything else, shaped my adult life. I still go to memorabilia shows and sign autographs at \$5.00 apiece. I can make more in one weekend than I made acting in the original movie.

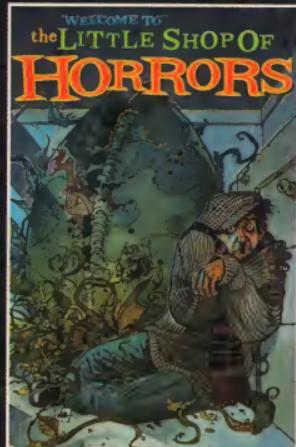
But what I really miss about those days is the work I got. Like I said, I want to get back into acting. I've got parts in some smaller pictures, but it's hard to break back into the business. It's a lot more complicated today; besides an agent, you need a manager and a publicist and they take 30%–40% of whatever you make. So I'm getting my roles primarily through my industry connections.



Dean Rohrer by Dean Rohrer

So I was literally discovered in a gas station. After that Roger gave me parts in many of his movies. That's something I'll always appreciate. He gave me my start in the industry. Even though my acting career didn't work out the way I'd hoped, I was able to get other work through the contacts I made while working on all those pictures for Roger.

MB: I understand that your cousin was Buddy Rich, the famous jazz drummer; did you work in any capacity for him?



NEXT ISSUE:
Audrey Junior gets bigger
and hungrier — and only
Seymour can stop her!

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Cover by rock and roll poster genius **CHRIS "COOP" COOPER** for *Caped Heat 3000 #1* coming this autumn!



OUR BELOVED DIRECTOR OF PUBLISHING — A THUMBNAIL PROFILE

Second in a series of Cosmic Comics employee biographies.

Name: Marcus Bastida

Age: 31

Birthplace: Seattle, Washington

Professional background: Attorney for Roger Corman's film company

Educational background: J.D., USC; B.A., University of Washington

Favorite meal: barbecued chicken & coca cola

Favorite movies: *The Wild Bunch*, *The Loved One*, *The Tenth Victim*, *Alien*, *Shakes the Clown*, *A Bucket of Blood*, *Salo*, 1984

Favorite books: *White Jazz* and *L.A. Confidential* by

James Ellroy, *Pop. 1289* by Jim Thompson, *Chronicle of Death Foretold* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, *Hollywood* by Charles Bukowski

Favorite comics: *Death Race 2020*, *Hate*

Favorite drink: rusty nail

Favorite super model: Kate Moss

HEY, YOU! JUST WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!

(Fill out this handy poll and help us find out! Everyone who sends in a poll will win a *free* prize, and a small number of randomly selected respondents will receive a *really excellent free* prize!)

Age _____

male female

Favorite Cosmic Comics title:

- Death Race 2020*
- Bram Stoker's Burial of the Rats*
- Welcome to the Little Shop of Horrors*

On average, how many comics do you buy each week? _____

Which of the following items have you spent money on in the previous six months?

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